



## **Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Traffic Impact Study and Subarea Transportation Plan**



### **4 Conclusion**

The local area issues and challenges identified during this study do not end with the development of the Traffic Impact Study and Subarea Transportation Plans. Issues and needs that this planning process cannot fully address include:

- Actual implementation of the recommended strategies
- Continuation of the local area dialogue
- Changes in land use

If implemented, the 31 recommended strategies for the Traffic Impact Study area and Battlefield Subarea will provide improved mobility and accessibility in the Traffic Impact Study area while also protecting the resources of the Chickamauga Battlefield into the future. However, moving to the implementation stage from this planning stage requires additional development in order to further define each strategy, further analyze the impacts, develop construction plans, and identify funding. In addition, for any plan to be successful, it must be reexamined and reviewed over time to ensure strategies remain appropriate and meet both the community's and the Park's needs.

The strategy recommendations within the Traffic Impact Study area and Battlefield Subarea cross many jurisdictions and entities, including the Cities of Fort Oglethorpe and Chickamauga, Catoosa and Walker Counties, the Chattanooga Hamilton County North Georgia Area Transportation Planning Organization, the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center, the State of Georgia, and the National Park Service. During this study, a stakeholder group that included representation from each of these jurisdictions was established as a partner to help guide the study. This stakeholder group was essential in creating a cohesive plan that meets the community's needs.

To ensure successful implementation for projects in both study areas, development of a continuing study area transportation advisory group is suggested. Though the CHCNGA TPO and Coosa Valley RDC have some planning oversight in the area, the issues and needs in the Traffic Impact Study area and Battlefield Subarea are unique. Changes to the transportation system in either area impacts the other, and a transportation advisory group would be able to sift through the issues and identify ways to find mutually beneficial solutions for the local community and the Chickamauga Battlefield.

Another consideration that could not be fully addressed by this study is future land use changes in the study area and their impacts on the transportation network and the Chickamauga Battlefield. Though existing future land use maps were consulted and integrated into the travel demand forecasting process, land use was considered at a macro scale. Impacts from future land use changes and zoning at the parcel level were not fully addressed.



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Major land use changes have occurred in the Traffic Impact Study area as agricultural lands have evolved into residential neighborhoods. Residential enclaves exist among the rolling, pastoral lands. Citizens attending public meetings indicated the character and mix of rural and residential is valued and is the reason behind their locational decisions. With the US 27 relocation, Walker County sees an opportunity to promote economic development in the US 27 corridor. The Fort Oglethorpe/LaFayette Road business district has experienced an economic decline. All of these changes are related to land use and development changes—the transportation network only serves as a means to access the land. In order for transportation changes in the Traffic Impact Study area and Battlefield Subarea to be successful, transportation decision-making and implementation must be integrated and compatible with land use and development goals and objectives.

Future development and land use changes around the Chickamauga Battlefield should be compatible and balanced against many goals including:

- Protecting and preserving the Chickamauga Battlefield for future generations
- Identifying community character and desired conditions in Fort Oglethorpe, Chickamauga, and Catoosa and Walker Counties
- Promoting economic development
- Maintaining mobility and accessibility

Maintaining the balance between the communities' needs and the NPS's needs will result in land use that benefits all who live, work and recreate in the Traffic Impact Study area and Battlefield Subarea.